

Embassy of the United States of America

**Kuwait City, Kuwait
May 4, 2008**

MEMORANDUM

To: All American Wardens
From: Consular Section
Subject: Warden Notice 2008 – 9

Please circulate the following message without additions or omissions immediately to all American citizens within your area of responsibility:

Begin text.

The Minister of Interior, Sheikh Jaber Khaled Al-Sabah, has issued a Ministerial decree that prohibits drivers in Kuwait from using a cellular phone while driving a vehicle. This decree (number 76/81) is intended to keep drivers in Kuwait focused on driving and not talking on a cellular phone. This decree is consistent with what is going on in our own country in many states that are enacting laws prohibiting cellular phone use while driving.

This decree goes into effect on May 1, 2008. As a practical matter, drivers should not be talking on cellular phones while driving at any time. They should find a safe place to pull over and stop their vehicles before talking on the cellular phone. Keep in mind this new decree is an amendment to a previous law already in effect that includes eating or drinking while driving a vehicle an offense in Kuwait.

You should expect some increased vigilance on the roads by police in the coming weeks to enforce this decree. Our information from MOI is the fine for use of a cellular phone while driving will be 15KD.

End Text.

American citizens with any questions or concerns may telephone the Embassy at 259-1581, 259-1583 or 259-1240. In case of an emergency outside business hours, American citizens may reach the Embassy duty officer by calling 259-1001.

For the latest security information, Americans should regularly monitor the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays.)

This message may be accessed on the Embassy website, <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov>. American citizens in Kuwait who would like to receive future Warden Messages from the Embassy directly by e-mail may sign up for this service by sending an e-mail to the following address: join-wardenmessagekuwait@mh.databack.com

American citizens resident and visiting in Kuwait who are not registered with the Embassy, or whose registration information has changed, are urged to register as soon as possible. They may now do so on-line at the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/home.asp>

Please note that the Consular Section is closed for American and most local holidays. The current list of holiday schedule for the year 2008, may be viewed via the link below: <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov/holidays.html>